

REMARKS

At the time of the Office Action, claims 1-45, 74-104, and 112-124 were pending. Claims 46-73 and 105-111 were previously withdrawn in the Response to Restriction filed July 9, 2002. Claim 116-124 were withdrawn from consideration in the Final Office Action dated November 30, 2004. This response officially cancels these previously withdrawn claims.

Claims 1, 2, 7-11, 13, 15, 16, 21-45, 74, 78-85 and 112 stand rejected, and are canceled herein, thus obviating the rejections directed to these claims.

Claims 3-6, 12, 14, 17-20, 75-77, 86-88, and 113-115 are objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim, but are otherwise indicated as being allowable. Claims 3-6, 12, 14, 17, 19, 20, 75-77, 86-88, and 113-115 are amended herein to incorporate their corresponding independent claim, thereby placing these claims in condition for allowance. Claim 18 is dependent from Claim 5, and is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance without further amendment. Note that Claim 113 is amended to incorporate Claim 112 (i.e., Claim 113 as originally entered was inadvertently depended from Claim 111 instead of Claim 112). Note also that Claims 4, 6 and 87 include amendments to correct minor typographical errors. No new matter is entered.

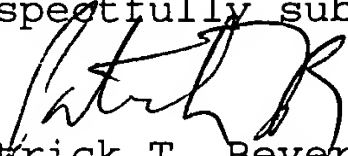
The Examiner has allowed claims 89-104 (although claim 90 was cancelled in the Response dated August 24, 2004 and received by the USPTO on August 27th).

It is requested that the application be reconsidered in view of the amendments made above.

CONCLUSION

Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.


Respectfully submitted,



Customer No.: 022888

Patrick T. Bever
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 33,834

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as FIRST CLASS MAIL in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 27, 2005.

Date: 5/27/2005 Signature: 
Rebecca A. Baumann